Public Health Lab Botulism Equipment

FY2002 Request: Reference No: \$110,000 36373

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Health and Safety

Category: Health/Safety Location: Statewide

Contact: Larry Streuber

Election District: Statewide

Contact Phone: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will allow the Division of Public Health to purchase the necessary equipment to complete the botulism laboratory. This laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory in Anchorage.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006_	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$110,000						\$110,000
Total:	\$110,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$110,000
☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project		☐ Phased F	Project	On-Going Proj	ect		
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		☐ Amendme	ent _	Mental Health	Bill		

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

Public Health Lab Botulism Equipment

FY2002 Request: \$110,000 Reference No: 36373

The State of Alaska has the highest rate of botulism in the United States. The primary source of Alaska's botulism is the consumption of traditional native fermented foods. Additionally, botulism toxin has been implicated as a potent bioterrorism agent owing to this toxin having been weaponized by several nations at odds with the U.S. No capacity currently exists within the State to test for or monitor botulism. Specimens from patients, along with suspect food or other environmental sources, must be sent to laboratories in the lower 48 states. Sending material for botulism testing to the lower 48 results in significant delays in the appropriate diagnosis, treatment and prevention of a significant disease. Development of an Alaskabased botulism laboratory will allow for earlier detection of an Alaska-specific disease and allow for enhanced surveillance and detection in the event of a biological terrorist or military attack.

The Section of Laboratories has built a dedicated laboratory area in the Anchorage Public Health Lab for botulism testing. Much of the needed equipment has already been obtained. To complete the botulism laboratory, the following items are still needed:

Plumbing modifications to allow safe automatic watering and sanitation of the two mouse colony structures: \$20,000

structures:	\$20,000
Animal bedding and feed:	\$5,000
Breeder animals:	\$5,000
Specialized training for two staff:	\$20,000
Vaccine:	\$1,000
Animal care training:	\$5,000
Laboratory equipment:	\$24,000
Initial consumables (such as reagents, antiserum, media, etc.):	\$30,000
Total Request:	\$110,000

AMD: Regional Hospital Decontamination System FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36381

AP/AL: Appropriation Project Type: Health and Safety

Category: Health/Safety

Location: Statewide Contact: Larry Streuber

Election District: Statewide **Contact Phone**: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will involve contracting with a chemical and biological hazards decontamination specialist to advise hospitals on supplies, equipment, training and protocols to help improve their hazardous materials decontamination capabilities. Regional hospitals in Southeast, Southcentral, and Interior Alaska will be targeted so decontamination systems will be located throughout the state.

Since submitting the Homeland Security budget request, the department was notified of Public Health Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response funds available from the federal government. This transaction changes the fund source from general funds to federal funds.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts		\$60,000					\$60,000
Total:	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project		☐ Phased F	Project	On-Going Proj	ect		
0% = Minimum St	State Match Required			ent	Mental Health	Bill	

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Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

AMD: Regional Hospital Decontamination System

FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36381

Currently, emergency response teams in Anchorage and Fairbanks are trained and equipped in hazardous materials response (HazMat Teams). These teams have some capabilities for field decontamination of victims of hazardous materials spills. However, according to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), medical facilities also should have some patient decontamination capabilities for two major reasons:

- 1. Field decontamination may not be always 100% effective and any residual contamination can be hazardous to patients, medical care providers, and may contaminate facilities and equipment at treating hospitals; or
- 2. Contaminated patients may be transported directly to hospitals for treatment before being decontaminated by a first response haz-mat team.

Therefore, this project will involve contracting with a chemical and biological hazards decontamination specialist to advise hospitals on supplies, equipment, training and protocols to help improve their hazardous materials decontamination capabilities. Regional hospitals in Southeast, Southcentral, and Interior Alaska will be targeted so decontamination systems will be located throughout the state.

New Central Vaccine Depot

FY2002 Request: Reference No:

Project Type: Health and Safety

\$126,500 35727

AP/AL: Appropriation

Category: Health/Safety

Location: Anchorage (Midtown) Contact: Larry Streuber

Election District: Midtown **Contact Phone**: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will allow us to move our current central vaccine depot to a larger facility that would accommodate the receipt, storage and distribution of pharmaceuticals in response to a bioterrorism attack, while maintaining existing vaccine inventory.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$126,500						\$126,500
Total:	\$126,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$126,500
☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project			☐ Phased F	Project _	On-Going Proj	ect	
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		☐ Amendm	ent _	Mental Health	Bill		

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

New Central Vaccine Depot

FY2002 Request: Reference No:

\$126,500

This project will allow us to move our current central vaccine depot to a larger facility that would accommodate the receipt, storage and distribution of pharmaceuticals in response to a bioterrorism attack.

Our current distribution depot is located in the Frontier Building which is not well-suited to deal with our current volume of immunizations. A new site is necessary to deal with the large volume of pharmaceuticals that may be required in case of a bioterrorism attack. Large quantities of pharmaceuticals would have to be received, stored in a temperature-controlled area and distributed to a variety of locations in a limited time. The facility also needs to be easily accessible for delivery and pick-up of vaccines and other drugs which may be needed to respond to a bioterrorism incident.

A new depot would improve day-to-day vaccine management and storage significantly as well as providing the essential additional capacity that a bioterrorism event would demand.

(2) Walk-in coolers 10' x 14"x8'8 3/4"	\$14,000
(4) Tecumeseh 1/2 HP R=22 condensing units with 2 evaporators	\$4,000
(2) Refrigerant leak detectors	\$1,200
(1) Installation	\$20,000

Security Door Locks

\$800

To assure limited access, number pad security door locks will be installed at the new central depot.

Laser Printer \$1,000

This HP high-volume printer will be used by the Vaccine Shipping and Handling Section to generate vaccine inventory and ordering reports. In addition, vaccine ordering information such as a cost analysis of the vaccines included in each shipment will be generated using this printer.

Generator \$5,000

Since the 20 kw generator used for central depot backup power sits on the roof of a 14-story building, a crane is required to move it from its current locaton. The figure shown reflects the estimated cost of moving the generator and installing it at the new central depot.

Alarm System \$1,500

These funds are necessary to pay the costs of disconnecting the 24-hour alarm system at the central vaccine depot and activating and maintaining a similar system at the new central depot.

Renovations \$75,000

The estimated costs of improving leased space to assure its suitability as a central vaccine depot. Includes addition of appropriate electrical wiring and computer cabling.

2,500 sq ft x \$30/sq ft - \$75,000

Moving \$4,000

Expenses associated with moving vaccines, computers and office equipment from their current location to the new central vaccine depot. Includes cost of moving current refrigeration equipment to the state surplus offices.

Total budget \$126,500

Health Alert Network and Public Health Alert Systems FY2002 Request: \$213,000 Reference No: 36383

AP/AL: Appropriation Project Type: Health and Safety

Category: Health/Safety

Location: Statewide Contact: Larry Streuber

Election District: Statewide **Contact Phone**: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

With these funds, the Division of Public Health will contract with one or more analyst programmers to complete the complex database and develop the necessary protocols for its use and for proper distribution of health alerts. In addition to completion of the Health Alert Network, these funds will be used to establish reliable Internet connections for our Public Health Centers.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$213,000						\$213,000
Total:	\$213,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$213,000
☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project			Phased	Project _	On-Going Proj	ect	
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		☐ Amendm	nent	Mental Health	Bill		

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u> Stair</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

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Health Alert Network and Public Health Alert Systems Completion

FY2002 Request: \$213,000
Reference No: 36383
communication links within states, across

The Health Alert Network is a national communications network allowing rapid communication links within states, across state lines, and with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Here in Alaska, we are developing our Public Health Alert System that will allow the Division of Public Health to rapidly alert necessary health and medical personnel in the event of a public health emergency. With these funds, the Division of Public Health will contract with one or more analyst programmers to complete the complex database and develop the necessary protocols for its use and for proper distribution of health alerts.

In addition to completion of the Health Alert Network, these funds will be used to establish reliable Internet connections for our Public Health Centers. The Public Health Centers function as our first line of detection in many communities in Alaska. These valuable personnel must have a reliable means of communicating electronically to receive urgent health alerts, to provide information back to the Division of Public Health, and to have access to current information on biological agents that is posted on websites such as ones from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cost Breakdown:

Completion of Health Alert Network (HAN) database/Public Health Alert System \$50,000

Development of protocols for use of HAN and distribution of Public Health Alerts \$20,000

Reliable Internet connections for Public Health Centers: Connections still needed to Wide Area Network (WAN): \$32,766 for installation and \$110,306 service fees for 12 months of service.

1.	Tok: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$720) =	2,799)
2.	Homer: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$2,160)	=	4,239
3.	Delta Junction: installation (\$2,07	(9) 12 months of service (\$1,080)	=	3,159
4.	Fort Yukon: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$12,720)	=	14,799
5.	Galena: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$49,080)	=	51,159
6.	Haines: installation (\$2,079	12 months of service (\$4,560)	=	6,639
7.	Kodiak: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$4,920)	=	6,999
8.	Petersburg: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$5,880)	=	7,959
9.	Seward: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$5,880)	=	7,959
10.	Sitka: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$6,120)	=	8,199
11.	Valdez: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$5,880)	=	7,959
12.	Wrangell: installation (\$2,079)	12 months of service (\$5,880)	=	7,959
13.	Cordova: installation (\$2,478)	12 months of service (\$1,032)	=	3,510
14.	Dillingham: installation (\$2,840)	12 months of service (\$3,794)	=	6,634
15.	Craig: installation (\$2,500)	12 months of service (\$600)	=	3,100
			;	\$143,072

TOTAL FOR HEALTH ALERT NETWORK = \$213,072

AMD: State Plan for National Pharmaceutical Stockpile FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36384

AP/AL: Appropriation Project Type: Health and Safety

Category: Health/Safety

Location: Statewide Contact: Larry Streuber

Election District: Statewide **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will fund Alaska's State plan for using the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) and a feasibility study for a pharmaceutical cache in Alaska.

Since submitting the Homeland Security budget request, the department was notified of Public Health Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response funds available from the federal government. This transaction changes the fund source from general funds to federal funds.

Fundina:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts		\$75,000					\$75,000
Total:	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000
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☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project 0% = Minimum State Match % Required			ent 🗆] Mental Health	Bill		

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

AMD: State Plan for National Pharmaceutical Stockpile

FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36384

This request will provide for the development of a State plan to stimulate distribution planning of pharmaceuticals at state and local levels. It is the responsibility of state/local public health departments and first response elements to develop plans for treating victims of a chem/bioterrorism event. This project will allow the State to enhance and refine Alaska's basic plan for using the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) and will fund a feasibility study for a pharmaceutical cache in Alaska. It will also support assistance to communities in planning for receipt/use of pharmaceuticals in response to an event.

The NPS consists of medical materiel pre-positioned to aid state/local emergency response authorities should their jurisdiction become the target of chemical or biological terrorism (chem/bioterrorism). Specifically, the NPS currently contains drugs, antidotes, and medical/surgical supplies designed to enhance response to weaponized preparations of nerve agents (organophosphates) and other biological agents such as anthrax, plague, and tularemia. The NPS is built on the assumption that a bioterrorism event has the potential to rapidly strain, if not deplete, local supplies of medical materiel. This is likely even if counteragents are stockpiled locally for this contingency. U.S. intelligence authorities project an increased likelihood of an organized bioterrorism assault against the nation's civilian populations.

The NPS Program is housed at the National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NCEH/CDC). The NPS Program is responsible for managing the two major components of the NPS: 12-hour Push Packages and Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI). NPS Program responsibilities include:

- materiel management
- quality assurance/control
- training and education
- technical assistance
- transportation of NPS assets to any designated U.S. location

CDC's NPS Program was developed to help save lives by promptly bringing needed medical materiel to a community impacted by a biological or chemical terrorism event. The Program's primary mission is to deliver medical materiel to a safe site proximal to the effected area and to formally transfer custody of the assets to state government officials. However, recent tabletop and functional exercises (e.g., LR2K in March 2000 and TOPOFF 2000 in May 2000) revealed that state and/or local response authorities may be unprepared to make maximum effective use of NPS materiel. Because of this, CDC is working to help state and local response authorities plan for the timely administration of drugs/antidotes after exposure to chemical or biological agent(s). This is, by far, one of the greatest challenges facing state and local emergency planners.

Specifically, CDC's NPS Program is working to train and educate state/local emergency response staff and authorities about the NPS mission, material and its operating procedures—and to offer technical assistance to state/local responders and health department staff in their efforts to plan for and address the implications of receiving NPS material.

Since 1999, when CDC was given responsibility for creating and managing the NPS program, program staff have developed a training, education, and technical assistance agenda to ensure mission success. CDC also has prepared the members of its Technical Advisory Response Unit (TARU) to remain onsite after delivering the NPS – to provide guidance on managing, repackaging, and distributing NPS materiel.

Fairbanks Public Health Lab Biosafety Level 3 Redundant FY2002 Request: \$100,000 Capability Study Reference No: 36385

AP/AL: Appropriation Project Type: Health and Safety

Category: Health/Safety

Location: Statewide Contact: Larry Streuber

Election District: Statewide Contact Phone: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project is requested to initiate a cost and feasibility study on building surge and redundancy capacity for the laboratory in Fairbanks.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$100,000						\$100,000
Total:	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
☐ State Match	Required 🛛 Or	e-Time Project	☐ Phased P	Project	On-Going Proj	ect	
0% = Minimum	State Match % Re	quired	☐ Amendme	ent _	Mental Health	Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

Fairbanks Public Health Lab Biosafety Level 3 Redundant FY2002 Request: \$100,000 Reference No: 36385

Alaska has two Public Health Laboratories. The Fairbanks facility deals exclusively in viral diseases, while the Anchorage laboratory deals with all other infectious diseases. Under normal conditions, this arrangement has provided the needed services for Alaska. The events of September 11, 2001, have revealed a significant weakness: air transportation is essential. Should air transportation be suspended again, or should either laboratory be overwhelmed by demand, the safety and health of Alaska's population could be in jeopardy. Recent experience with anthrax indicates that it is advantageous to have surge and back-up capacity at the Fairbanks facility.

This project will fund a cost and feasibility study for the renovation or replacement of the Fairbanks facility. The Fairbanks virology laboratory is currently housed in an antiquated building that does not have the physical capacity to allow for expansion. The laboratory does not have the infrastructure to accommodate a biosafety level 3 laboratory, which is essential for safe handling of bioterrorism agents.

AMD: Bioterrorism Drills and Exercises FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36386 **Project Type:** Health and Safety

AP/AL: Appropriation

Category: Health/Safety

Location: Statewide **Contact:** Larry Streuber

Election District: Statewide **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Although communities throughout Alaska have held disaster exercises and drills for many years, most communities have only recently begun to consider response to bioterrorist events. With these funds, the Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will contract with one or more bioterrorism response experts to assist communities in planning and implementing realistic bioterrorism exercises and drills.

Since submitting the Homeland Security budget request, the department was notified of Public Health Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response funds available from the federal government. This transaction changes the fund source from general funds to federal funds.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts		\$60,000					\$60,000
Total:	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
☐ State Match I	Required 🛛 O	ne-Time Project	☐ Phased P	Project	On-Going Pro	ject	
0% = Minimum	State Match % Ro	equired		ent _	Mental Health	Bill	

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Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

AMD: Bioterrorism Drills and Exercises

FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36386

Although communities throughout Alaska have held disaster exercises and drills for many years, most communities have only recently begun to consider response to bioterrorist events. With these funds, the Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will contract with one or more bioterrorism response experts to assist communities in planning and implementing realistic bioterrorism exercises and drills to help them be better prepared to respond to these types of events.

AMD: Medical Plan for Mass Casualty Transportation FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36387

AP/AL: Appropriation Project Type: Health and Safety

Category: Health/Safety

Location: Statewide Contact: Larry Streuber

Election District: Statewide **Contact Phone**: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

For a mass casualty incident, especially one involving large numbers of trauma or brain injuries, a plan must be developed for quickly accessing large, stretcher-equipped aircraft, emergency medical care providers, and medical equipment and supplies to provide patient care and transportation for large numbers of victims to hospitals in Alaska or outside the state.

Since submitting the Homeland Security budget request, the department was notified of Public Health Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response funds available from the federal government. This transaction changes the fund source from general funds to federal funds.

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	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts		\$20,000					\$20,000
Total:	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
State Match Requ	uired 🛛 O	ne-Time Project	☐ Phased F	Project	On-Going Proj	ect	
0% = Minimum State	e Match % Re	equired		ent _	Mental Health	Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
0	0
0	
0	0
	<u>Amount</u> 0 0 0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project.

AMD: Medical Plan for Mass Casualty Transportation

FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36387

Every day, the emergency medical services (EMS) system in Alaska responds to scores of traumatic and medical emergencies. Most of these events involve a single victim, but sometimes these are two or more victims in a single event. Due to limited medical resources in Alaska, a multiple casualty incident can quickly overwhelm the local EMS system. Even in Anchorage, only a limited number of acutely injured or ill victims can be treated and transported at the same time.

For a mass casualty incident, especially one involving large numbers of trauma or burn injuries, a plan must be developed for quickly mobilizing large, stretcher-equipped aircraft, emergency medical care providers, and medical equipment and supplies, to provide patient care and transportation for large numbers of victims to hospitals in Alaska or outside the state.

In order to save as many lives as possible, a well planned system for providing timely, life-saving emergency medical care and transportation of large numbers of injured victims is necessary. All emergency personnel need to be aware of their role in a disaster response and how information, approval and action will be relayed. A simple but detailed plan will provide response partners with essential information ensuring that the appropriate response is as rapid as possible.

AMD: EMS Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment Triage Kits FY2002 Request: \$0 Reference No: AMD36438 **Project Type:** Health and Safety **AP/AL:** Appropriation Category: Health/Safety Location: Statewide **Contact:** Larry Streuber **Election District:** Statewide **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870 **Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007 **Brief Summary and Statement of Need:** This project will involve purchase of START kits for EMS providers in Alaska to help improve their multiple and mass casualty triage capabilities. Since submitting the Homeland Security budget request, the department was notified of Public Health Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response funds available from the federal government. This transaction changes the fund source from general funds to federal funds. Funding: FY2002 FY2003 FY2004 FY2005 FY2006 FY2007 Total \$20,000 Fed Rcpts \$20,000 Total: \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$20,000 \$0 \$20,000 ☐ State Match Required Phased Project ☐ On-Going Project 0% = Minimum State Match % Required M Amendment Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

Amount Staff
Total Operating Impact: 0 0
One-Time Startup Costs: 0
Additional Estimated Annual O&M: 0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is the first year of the project

Department of Health and Social Services Reference No: 36438

AMD: EMS Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment Triage Kits

FY2002 Request: Reference No:

\$0 AMD36438

A relatively new triage system, called Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment (START) kits, has been shown to be very effective in multiple casualty events in California and elsewhere. These kits outline a method of identifying individual patients by category. This project will fund purchase of START kits for EMS providers in Alaska (most of whom are volunteers) to help improve their multiple and mass casualty triage capabilities.

Most Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responders have received some training in triage for multiple or mass casualty events. Triage is the process of sorting patients by severity and priority when there are too many victims for available responders to treat and transport in a timely manner. Effective triage can help rationalize the process of caring for multiple victims. It results in the maximum possible number of lives saved.